

THE ALBERTA MUNICIPAL Counsellor

PUBLISHED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS IN THE INTERESTS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Vol. 10 No. 1

EDMONTON, ALBERTA

January, 1965

A HAPPY YEAR FOR YOU AND YOURS!

... REVIEW OF 1964 BY DMA OFFICIALS

BRANCHES REPORT PROGRESS

DEPUTY MINISTER'S OFFICE:

As we begin another year we can, I think, take satisfaction from the progress made during the past twelve months. In general the municipalities of Alberta are in a sound financial position and are carrying out the management of their local affairs with efficiency ranging from reasonable to excellent. Because of generally increasing costs, taxes on real property were increased in many instances, but it might help us as ratepayers to keep in mind that we are obtaining the best possible value for our tax dollars.



As will be seen from reports of our various Branches, the Department of Municipal Affairs has experienced an extremely busy year. Due in large part to the good relations which have been maintained between the Department and the municipalities, it has been a good year. We want to thank municipal officials everywhere for their co-operation. Without it, the progress recorded would have been impossible.

For 1965 I think it is safe to predict increasing interest and participation in the field of urban renewal development and public housing. Because of recent amendments to The National Housing Act and urban renewal studies completed or underway in some of our larger centres, interest is growing and we are beginning to realize something of what can be done in urban centres and rural areas alike. A representative committee on housing called the Alberta Housing Advisory Committee has been established and provincial legislation clearing the way for adoption of various housing programs will be presented to the Legislature at the coming session.

To the staff of the Department I want to express my best wishes and thanks for a job well done. For municipal people everywhere I hope that 1965 will be a successful and prosperous year.

O. A. W. Morrison, Deputy Minister

ACCOUNTS AND GENERAL ADMINISTRATION:

In 1964 the work of the Accounts and General Administration Branch continued to increase - especially with regard to taxation in the northern portion of the Province.

In spite of the adverse weather conditions experienced by the farmers and ranchers, collections have been surprisingly good.

The new Special Areas Act was passed by the legislature in 1964 and it is hoped that a new Improvement Districts Act will meet with legislative approval this coming session.

Everything points to another busy and successful year in 1965.

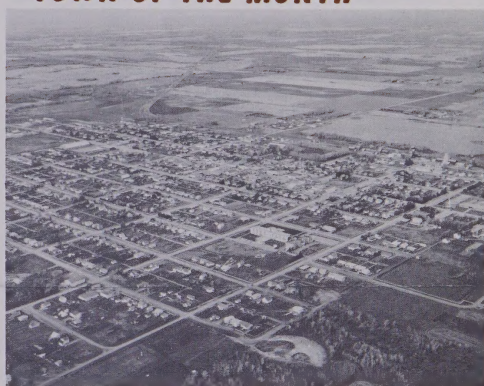
D. R. Watson, Secretary-Accountant



MUNICIPAL INSPECTION BRANCH:

1964 was a very busy year for the Municipal Inspection Branch and due to special investigations being made, and personnel acting on the boards of administration of New Towns, the inspectors were hard pressed to complete the inspection of all the municipal (To Page 6)

TOWN OF THE MONTH



FOUNDED in 1909: Main street of St. Paul is 50th Avenue and it runs past the arena in the west between the Cathedral and the Racette School at the right of picture. The railroad bends at the edge of the town and points northwest to Abilene and Ashmont, thence mostly southwest to Edmonton. That's the ball park beside the arena and St. Therese Hospital in the centre.

(Photo by Rocco)

ST. PAUL . . . HOW IT BEGAN

St. Paul's origin dates back to the year 1896 when the famed western missionary, Father Lacombe, obtained from the Dominion Government a reservation of four townships for a Metis settlement. Under Father Lacombe's scheme each Metis was to receive tax free land, form a close knit colony and government assistance to purchase farm equipment. The colony, originally named St. Paul de Metis by Father Lacombe, was placed under control of the Oblate Fathers who immediately, and at great pains, proceeded to erect a school, a flour mill, and lumber mills on the present townsite of St. Paul. A call was issued to the Metis population of western Canada and the United States to take advantage of this opportunity, but very few responded and in 1899 there were only 270 persons in the whole colony. Even these showed no inclination towards farming, and had little desire to improve their living conditions, preferring to live meagerly from day to day by fishing and hunting. The futility of labouring for the welfare of a people who would not be persuaded to better their own conditions soon became apparent and ten years after the foundation of the colony, Father Therien, then in charge, recommended that the reserve be opened to white settlers. With the consent of the few established Metis settlers, this recommendation was adopted by Ottawa in 1908 to open a new era of development.

April 11, 1909, saw the birth of modern St. Paul. On that day five hundred future settlers stood in line at the land office in Edmonton to apply for homesteads, and by five o'clock in the afternoon 450 homestead applications had been filed; another 250 applications were filed the following day, and in a few days the population of the colony rose to eighteen hundred. The little mission erected by (To Page 5)

THE SECOND PAGE . . .

The MAGIC MOUNTAIN

Time has no divisions to mark its passage; there is never a thunder storm or blare of trumpets to announce the beginning of a new month or year.

Even when a new century begins it is only we mortals who ring bells and fire off pistols.

o Thomas Mann

THE DAYS OF OUR YEAR

Like Mr. Mann said, left to itself the advent of another year would be a quiet thing . . . with the second before being quite indistinguishable from the exact moment or the split second after. We watch our timepieces so as to know when we may properly begin the climax of our welcome, but if they happen to be wrong, no one is the worse off or wiser.

So it's time again to review some of the events of the past calendar year and to brace ourselves for the months ahead. Looking back, we will readily recall a number of things: like the drought of the summer and the rainfall of autumn; the amazing courage and dignity of our Queen on her visit to eastern Canada; the three Russians whirling around the earth to be welcomed on landing by Khrushchev whose days of power even then were numbered; the two shots at Mars and the miracle of steering a satellite a million miles away.



In the United States there was the grinding violence of civil rights even while Martin Luther King accepted his Nobel Peace Prize in Stockholm. In November our neighbors and friends elected a President, and all through the year there were wars and rumors of wars, droughts, floods, fires and widely assorted crimes. Undoubtedly there were vast numbers of kindly deeds and stories of heroism too, but they were not considered very newsworthy and so went largely unpublicised.

Our own country having approximately one-tenth the population of our mighty neighbor, we enjoyed approximately one-tenth of their problems, headlines and income. Peculiarly Canadian, however, was the great debate on our national flag and the minor fuss about the early Fathers of Confederation declaiming in English at Charlottetown.

With our provincial borders we had a few debates of our own. The month of August annexed Jasper Place to Edmonton and Bowness to Calgary. Standards were loosened in selected areas, while December brought us the chilliest weather since our grandfathers were boys.

After that we still venture to suggest that 1964 had 366 days filled with good, not so good or somewhat indifferent effort. And on balance we believe some ground was won.

Not the least memorable part of the year was the usual spirit of optimism regarding the odds for 1965. As the old year sputtered out, we heard much about new benchmarks and surging economic progress, with the shortage of labor forecast as one of our more distressing problems.

And of course we can recall a number of isolated incidents none of which were noted beyond our small personal orbit. For example, we shall not soon forget the meadowlark singing from the hills of Meeting Creek. Or the rain in May flooding the coulees that crease the land of the big sky. Or the old-fashioned hesitant friendliness we discovered in people who soon lost their hesitancy when offered friendliness in return.

In a simple way, these are high on our list and we shall carry them with us out of the days of the year that was. Dramatic they were not . . . but for the months to come, we can wish for nothing more rewarding than more of the same.

For ourselves, that is. And essentially, for others as well.

R. A. Cantelon, Editor ●

I AM THE CALENDAR

I have two missions: one of utility, one of sentiment.

I am the symbol of time, combining the past, the present and the future.

As the clock records the seconds, minutes, hours, I record the days, weeks and months.

All the world looks at me, talks about me, and regulates its business and social life by me.

No letter is ever written, no book ever published, no money ever coined, that does not bear my imprint. I am the one thing that the world must constantly consult.

I ask for display space in your place of business or your home. In return, I guarantee to be useful, and I hope to be decorative.

ASSESSING IN PAINTEARTH

The County of Paintearth is in the process of completing the new general assessment to be applied for the 1965 taxation year. . . . In the new assessment a top value of \$40.00 per acre was used compared to a \$30.00 value for the old assessment, this means that the average increase for arable land is 33%. The average increase for non-arable or pasture land is 50% but may not be that high depending on final calculation. There are large percentage increases as well as some decreases on individual quarters throughout the country. There are several reasons for this, some being new breaking and the improvement of hard pan or subsoil through cultivation. The main reason for large differences is of course the difference in opinion between the present assessors and the assessors used in the old assessment.

It follows then that if the percentage increase in total assessment in the county is 30% and it should be in that neighborhood, and your assessment increased 30% and the levy required for county operation does not change, then your individual taxes will not change either. If your assessment increase is below 30% your taxes will go down and if more than 30% your taxes will go up. Let it be clear then that because your assessment has gone up does not mean that your taxes will go up also. An increase of 30% in the total county assessment should result in a drop of 30% in the mill rate if operating costs remain the same. It could well be that the 1964 millrate of 68 mills could drop to about 50 mills for 1965. o County of Paintearth "Bulletin" ●

CENTENNIAL INTEREST GROWS

Increasing interest in the federal-provincial centennial plan for the observance of Canada's 100th birthday is being expressed by municipalities throughout Alberta according to Provincial Government Centennial Officers, D. A. Rollans and E. H. Abell.

More than 100 municipalities have already indicated their interest in adopting their own centennial project, and many of these have been visited by the Centennial Officers.

In making application for a centennial grant, the municipality must outline in detail the proposed project, and its estimated cost. The municipality must also give details of the manner in which it will raise its share of the cost of the project over and above the Federal and Provincial grants. It is stipulated that the municipality must own the land on which the project is to be located, and must agree perpetually to maintain the project once it is completed. Any two or more municipalities may pool their grant funds in order to create a project which will be of mutual benefit and use.

Applications for approval of projects must be submitted on or before December 31, 1965, and there must be a reasonable chance for completion of the project by 1967. ●

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THE ALBERTA MUNICIPAL COUNSELLOR
Published as second class mail by the Post Office Department,
Ottawa, and for payment of postage in cash.

Published monthly by the Department of Municipal Affairs, Government of Alberta, for better understanding between persons engaged in the various aspects of local government within the Province. Contents may be reprinted without restriction but a credit line is appreciated. Articles and information about the municipal scene are welcomed and the publication will be mailed without charge upon request. Address enquiries to

The Alberta Municipal Councillor
Department of Municipal Affairs
Edmonton, Alberta

"... IT THEREFORE BEHOOVES A MUNICIPALITY TO DISCONTINUE SUCH CONCESSIONS"



A FEW COMMENTS ON ASSESSMENTS AND EXEMPTIONS

BY J.B. LAIDLAW, ASSESSMENT COMMISSIONER

As modern society continues its ever increasing demands on government at all levels, elected representatives are forever faced with the problem of securing necessary revenues to meet the additional expenditures thus incurred. In this regard municipal government probably faces the greatest difficulty by reason of the fact that provincial statutes usually limit rather closely those sources from which municipal authorities may obtain monies to meet required expenditures.

Generally speaking and apart from payments received in respect of franchises, permits, licensing and fines, municipal operating expenses must be met in the main from provincial grants and real property taxation. So long as this latter mentioned mode of raising revenue must be employed to meet approximately 50% of municipal expenditures, and in order to ensure that the burden of such tax bears equitably on all ratepayers, it is particularly important that municipalities assess all properties included in the tax base in a fair and equitable manner.

THE ASSESSMENT BASE:

Basically, real property assessments are utilized for taxation purposes but they may also serve other functions. For example the wealth of a municipality may be found in its assessment picture, thus furnishing important data to industrial and commercial corporations searching for suitable plant locations. Also, bond companies to a degree may determine the question of risk and decide on the ability of a municipality to retire debentures where a loan is being negotiated. Again, grants for education, health and municipal assistance are partially calculated on the assessment base of municipalities while certain types of requisitions are wholly determined thereon.

To meet the need of an acceptable and uniform valuation level on a province-wide basis, statutory provisions in Alberta require the Assessment Commissioner to prepare necessary standards and methods to achieve general assessment uniformity and to recommend rules and regulations for the guidance of assessors in the practice of their profession. Upon the recommendation of the Assessment Commissioner in this regard the Minister of Municipal Affairs may prescribe standards and methods of assessments as well as rules and regulations to assist assessors in making assessments.

Of interest on this point is the fact that an Assessment Manual is presently prescribed by the Department of Municipal Affairs the use of which is mandatory by all municipalities.

ABILITY TO PAY - BENEFIT PRINCIPLES:

It is often claimed that even now the tax imposed on real property is too onerous and beyond the ability of the owner to pay. However, this argument obviously is not true insofar as rented property is concerned, for if the return on investment proves inadequate the owner will certainly dispose of same. Such situation is not the case as investors are continuing to purchase property for rental purposes.

Regarding owner-occupied property it must be assumed that privacy, if not the security of home ownership, represents a fair return on investment including property taxes payable; otherwise the property would be offered for sale. Having in mind the high ratio of owner-occupied property now existing, this is a very unlikely possibility in Alberta.

Another argument advanced from time to time revolves around the question of whether it is fair to tax property for services which do not directly benefit property. Without doubt the majority, if not all, municipal services must add to the value of property and it seems reasonable to assume therefore, that property should be expected to pay for the cost of same. On this score however many will argue, with little logic, that an owner who does not use services should not be expected to assume a portion of the cost thereof. Perhaps this contention can be more aptly applied to education, health and welfare services which certainly benefit people in the main, although they also add to the value of property in that property will sell more easily on the market when such services are readily available.

UNIFORMITY IN EQUALIZATION OF TAXES:

Equalization of taxation results only after equalization of assessment has been achieved. Firstly let it be stated that perfect equalized assessment is hardly possible as the human element of error always exists and there can also be differences of opinion as to the basis on which an equalized assessment should be determined.

Basically speaking equalized assessment is the determination of the fact of the value of property subject to assessment and taxation (including property in respect of which grants are paid in lieu of taxes) in any municipality as compared to the value of property subject to assessment and taxation in any or all municipalities in the Province.

While the basis of valuation of property whether statutory or otherwise must be realistic, the important point for equalized assessment purposes is that the values shall be equalized as between municipal units; and whether the basis of valuation be somewhat above or below what is considered a realistic basis of valuation is not so important as that the values are properly equalized as between municipalities.

Another facet in equalization is that unless there is a realistic spread between the lowest and the highest level of values of property, the problems of equalization become more difficult as between properties in a municipality or as between municipal units.

Accordingly then and as equalized assessment form the yardstick on which requisitions payable by municipalities are computed, equalization in the amount of taxes payable as well as equalization in taxing rates for school and hospital purposes may be expected in every instance where the taxable assessment has been determined on a fair and uniform base.

EXEMPT PROPERTIES:

For many and varied reasons provincial legislatures have seen fit over the years to exempt certain classes of property from municipal assessment and taxation. Chief among the types more readily coming to mind include schools, hospitals and churches although more recently the list has been broadened to cover properties used for welfare and benevolent purposes. In Alberta, farm buildings have never been assessed while other improvements receive partial exemption from taxation; i.e. buildings other than farm buildings are taxed at 60% of assessed value with industrial machinery and equipment being taxed at 30% thereof. In addition municipally-owned property is not taxable while used for municipal purposes. While the interest of the Crown in federally- and provincially-owned property is exempt from assessment, it is now the practice of the Alberta Government to pay grants the equivalent of normal taxes on practically all provincially-owned property. In late years the Government of Canada has substantially increased grants of this nature unless school or hospital services are self-supplied, in which case the grant payable is reduced accordingly.

Mention should also be made of Private Acts and special agreements each of which further erodes the tax base and thereby places an additional burden on the remaining taxpayers. One of the best examples of the former may be found in the 1880 special Charter granted to the C.P.R. by the Parliament of Canada. Under the terms of this agreement C.P.R. mainline property in Alberta shall be forever free from taxation by any municipality or by the Province.

Prior to the coming into force of the School Foundation Program, many municipalities had entered into special agreements respecting such properties as industrial plants, private clubs and association whereunder the tax levy was reduced or alternatively partially or wholly forgiven.

Because the total assessment of the latter mentioned properties is fully included in the equalized assessment of a municipality, the school and hospital portions of the normal tax levy must be paid by the municipality to requisitioning authorities irrespective of the fact that same is not collected from the owner. Obviously this situation thus adds to the tax burden of other ratepayers and it therefore behooves a municipality to discontinue such concessions as quickly as is conveniently possible.

In addition to the foregoing, it is to be noted that since 1905 the Legislature of Alberta has approved some 77 Private Acts under the terms of which exemption from assessment and taxation is extended to properties owned by numerous religious, educational and welfare organizations. In the majority of cases the tax relief granted is undoubtedly fully deserving but in some instances the affected properties may no longer be used for the purpose for which the exemption was originally extended. Some justification for this line of thought may be found in remarks made by the Minister of Municipal Affairs when speaking to the Legislative Assembly during the 1964 Session. (To Page 5)

THE CENTENNIAL AND THE TOWN OF ST. PAUL

A PROGRESS REPORT ON SOME OF THE ACTIVITIES GOING FORWARD IN ALBERTA'S NORTHEASTERN CENTRE

● The St. Paul Chamber of Commerce Centennial Committee, appointed Centennial Organizers by the Town Council in 1963, have no binding rules or regulations to follow, but, in brief, are guided by the following principles:

1. We want to make our own contribution to Canadian unity. We feel that in Northeastern Alberta, we have a real cross-section of various ethnic groups - we have always worked well together, and we want to ensure that this will continue in the future.

2. Our Centennial Chamber Committee feel very strongly that celebrations must come from the people and not the government. The governments, federal, provincial and local, most certainly have roles to play, but the initiative must come from the people.

3. Your Chamber feels quite strongly that the celebrations in 1967 should contain something extra, something unusual. Local projects of a lasting nature are a necessity, but projects involving other towns, other people, other provinces, would appear to be more in the spirit of a true birthday celebration.

4. We feel that 1967 should be a year of assessment, an acknowledgment of the past 100 years, and the people who developed Northeastern Alberta, but equally 1967 should involve the youth of our area, adults and old-timers, and all other groups and organizations who have made a major contribution to our development. Obviously, it is a perfect time for preserving and restoring any natural history we may have out here in Northeastern Alberta.

● The Notre Dame Boys' Choir, a group of 35 children from ages 7 to 21 singing in four mixed voices under the dedicated direction of Father R. Benoit will be making a tour of Canada in 1967. This group will be stopping at various centres in Canada and will at that time give to the respective Chambers of Commerce and Mayors of each city, birthday gifts ranging from original oil paintings from the St. Paul Art Club, photo albums of typical Northeastern Alberta scenes and subjects of Indian handicrafts and other objects from the various Indian reserves in Northeastern Alberta. A trial run was performed during Christmas of 1963 when the Notre Dame Boys' Choir and the St. Paul Art Club combined to present an oil painting to Mayor Hawrelak of Edmonton, Alberta. In conjunction with this goodwill tour of young St. Paul ambassadors of goodwill, the Mayor of St. Paul is working on the feasibility of obtaining mass transportation for all interested adult members of this community and area.

● The St. Paul Art Club is making a major contribution towards St. Paul's Provincial project, namely, the giving to the Alberta Provincial Government, in 1967, of a series of oil paintings typical of Northeastern Alberta, in scenery, culture and history.

Members of the Art Club are choosing various Departments of the Provincial Government and attempting to work out the type of painting which would best suit each specific Department.

Two good examples of the above are as follows, namely:

1. One of the members of the Art Club, a former school-teacher, is interested in reproducing oil paintings of the old-fashioned white schoolhouse, along with paintings of some of the modern schools in the area. These paintings will form part of the series and may eventually find a home in the Department of Education for the Province of Alberta.

2. Another member of the Art Club is desirous of recording the historical significance of the Frog Lake Massacre, and is now preparing to reproduce original oil paintings of some of the direct descendants of the Indian Chief and other heads on the reserve at that time. Another painting proposed would embody the spirit of law enforcement during the days of the Riel Rebellion and the Frog Lake Massacre.

As a result of the activity produced in this Provincial project, we are becoming more aware of our local heritage and history, and the St. Paul Art Club is to be commended for their project, which will be expanded from time to time until every painter in the area has the opportunity of participating.

● Thanks to the 1967 Centennial, St. Paul, Alberta, population 3200, may well become the cultural centre of Northeastern Alberta.

Since the appointment of the Senior Chamber of Commerce as Centennial Organizers by the Town Council, co-operation and concerted effort have been the key notes and an explosion of local interest in cultural arts and family recreation, the result. Standards and

goals thought impossible a year ago have now been set for 1967; groups and individuals are now bearing down, with results going beyond 1967.

The Chamber of Commerce Centennial Committee have launched and are working on definite projects involving national, provincial and local celebrations.

All this began in 1963 when a normal weekly luncheon meeting of the Chamber of Commerce was turned into an unprecedented historical event. The meeting was called to order and immediately adjourned and the Chamber of Commerce president informed the 26 or more members present that they were now sitting as provisional directors of the Family Recreation Association, a newly incorporated society under the Alberta Society's Act. The declared purpose of the Recreation Association was to correlate and organize all local and district clubs, organizations, firms and individuals in their respective projects. Life time membership in the association was fixed in the Articles at \$100 and within 30 minutes over \$2500 was paid in or pledged. Thus began phase 1 of St. Paul's local centennial objective. Today over 30 organizations and clubs are life time members of the association and over 75 business firms and individuals are also members.

To assure greater stabilization and effect, the Family Recreation Association is governed by not one president but with the top executive comprised of 4 presidents called a quartet and two secretaries. This unusual structure assures choice of access to the top executive by all member clubs and organizations without discrimination. Ten directors at large assist the executive.

● Less than 8 months after its incorporation the Family Recreation Association began construction on the first phase of the family centre. This is a \$200,000 building consisting of an auditorium, club rooms, workshop rooms, exhibition rooms, 6 sheet curling arena with cement floor; in summer to be used by the agricultural organizations, town organizations, schools and any other local and district organizations.

The entire family centre will include skating area, a swimming pool and other facilities. The total project will run over the half million dollar mark.

Phase 1 of this project required \$200,000. The first \$100,000

"... ST. PAUL IS SHOWING AN EXAMPLE"

In 1949 a Royal Commission was established to examine Canada's cultural life. The first paragraph of the intention of the Commission read: "It is desirable that the Canadian people should know as much as possible about their country, its history and traditions and about their national life and common achievements".

No other occasion can provide greater motivation or a stronger incentive than Canada's Centenary for just such a goal.

This is being demonstrated in the Town of St. Paul, 132 miles north east of Edmonton, where preparations for the Centennial have been underway for some time. While interest there in Canadian history and the arts is most enthusiastic, it might be said that the best part of the preparations is the scale of the people's participation. The schools, the churches, the homes and the clubs - everybody is doing something. The discovery and use of the tremendous force inherent in the collective capacity of community resources by the people of St. Paul is showing an example for any Canadian community, regardless of size.

Canada's year long birthday celebration must not be restricted to any one area or a select group of people; nor should it be a show left to governments or a few major organizations. If centennial plans are to be meaningful then the citizens must help prepare them and carry them out. Centennial planning should start at the grassroots level of the community and comprise all the arts of living, the economic growth and the physical development, both actual and potential, of the whole district involved.

At a time when Canada faces many serious problems including forces which would destroy our unity, we need the Centenary, - not as an excuse to do something we already should be doing, but as a reason to do something extra for ourselves as a nation. As we said, the Town and the people of St. Paul are showing us the way.

o John Holgerson, Chairman,
Edmonton Civic Centennial Committee
From an address to the Edmonton Citizenship Council

was raised by outright donations as well as winter works funds, provincial per capita grants and other means. The other \$100,000 was borrowed from the local bank by a promissory note signed by the Family Recreation Association.

In order to help repay this substantial obligation the residents of the Town of St. Paul have voluntarily assessed themselves \$1.00 per month added to their water bills. This type of plebiscite is without parallel in the Province and possibly in all of Canada. Since then several other towns and villages in Alberta have directed their efforts toward adopting the same method.

The Chamber of Commerce have gone on record favouring the donation to the Provincial Government of a series of oil paintings done by the St. Paul Art Club. This series will include and cover most of the aspects of Northeastern Alberta, historically, culturally and geographically. This project as well as the national project has received the commendation of Hon. Ambrose Holowach, Provincial Secretary for the Province of Alberta, Head of the Provincial Centennial Celebrations.

In quick succession the following centennial projects have come up and received the unanimous support of the Centennial Committee of the Chamber of Commerce:

- o Magistrate G. W. Graves has been appointed historian for the Centennial Celebrations. Mr. Graves and members of the Indian Affairs Department and other interested parties are taping conversations with elderly Indian people in this area.

- o The St. Paul Historical Centennial Museum Association has been organized and the St. Paul Golf Club have offered to give this association temporary head quarters in their new club house.

- o The Cultural & Development Branch of the Provincial Government have been approached for purposes of establishing choral workshops for Northeastern Alberta and arrangements have been formulated for the first of these unique workshops to be held at St. Paul, Alberta.
- o CBC Winnipeg and CBC Montreal spent two days in St. Paul recording the Notre Dame Boys' Choir. Permanent records will be made and these will be included in the birthday gift caravan gifts to various areas in Canada.

- o Prime Minister Lester B. Pearson has acknowledged that he is prepared to meet the Notre Dame Boys' Choir in 1967.

- o Two local firms, one a men's wear and the other a ladies' wear are working on a series of mannequins representing the apparel worn in each decade from 1867 to 1967. These will be on exhibition in the new museum building and will be circulated throughout the area for exhibition in 1967.

- o A local photographer has begun a series of projects involving the re-photographing of old pictures to a standardized collection. These will be included in the photo albums to be given to other areas in 1967. Included in the series are the following:

- (a) Agriculture - Scenes of bush clearing and cultivation of land, harvesting with oxen and horses, primitive implements and many mechanized implements of early days, marketing, pioneer settlements,

- (b) Other industries - Scenes of other industries which existed in Northeastern Alberta in the early days such as sawmills, fishery, etc.

- (c) Communications - Carts, wagons and sleighs used by pioneers, transportation of grain and stock to marketing places, public barns, horse coaches, first cars in communities, ferries, buildings of roads and railway trains, etc.

- (d) Health - First hospital and clinics in villages and towns

- (e) Recreation and Culture - Scenes of early days, recreational activities, such as games, parades, sports teams, picnics, choirs, concerts, stage plays, national costumes, etc.

- (f) Religion - First churches in communities of Northeastern Alberta, parochial organizations and clergyman whose activities have influenced the development of the region.

- (g) Towns and villages - Scenes of villages and towns in Northeastern Alberta indicating the start and growth; indicating the progress of villages and towns such as installation of electricity, gas and water services; business and other service establishments of early days; building and maintenance of streets; fire prevention equipment and firemen; first schools, etc.

- (h) Mayors of St. Paul

ST. PAUL . . . HOW IT BEGAN

(From Page 1)

the Oblate

Fathers soon became the core of a bustling community, as farm homes were erected and the land cleared and prepared for seed. A village grew on the site of the Metis mission, and was named St. Paul de Metis.

The land around St. Paul was first surveyed in 1884 by C. M. Magrath, D.T.S. The townsite was surveyed in August 1909 by M. W. Hopkins, D.L.S.

St. Paul de Metis was erected a village June 14, 1912, with

EXECUTIVES FOR 1964-65

• UNION OF ALBERTA MUNICIPALITIES

Hon. President: Mayor Thor Forseth, Peace River
President: Mayor Frank Sherring, Lethbridge
1st Vice President: Jack Fleming, Town Manager, Hinton
2nd Vice President: Alderman Mark Tennant, Calgary

Executive Committee: Deputy Mayor T.R. Osborne, Medicine Hat
Alderman Mona Sparling, Camrose
Mayor Fred Johns, Leduc
Mayor D. Burt, Cardston
Mayor N.S. Roper, Rimbey
Mayor W.R. Brunelle, Edson
Mayor George Repka, Grande Prairie
Commissioner Malcolm Twiddle, Edmonton

Secretary-Treasurer: Mayor E. Newman, Red Deer

Members of the Executive Committee and
Representatives on the Provincial-Municipal Advisory Committee
Ross L. Ellis, Town Administrator, High River
Alderman Ken Newman, Edmonton

• ASSOCIATION OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICTS & COUNTIES

Past President: Charles P. Hayes, Strone
President: J.M. McKay, Brant
Vice President: G.W. Moyer, Fort Saskatchewan

Directors: District No. 1 - C.L. Doan, Innisfail
District No. 2 - M.R. Parker, Ardrossan
District No. 3 - Fred White, Spirit River

Secretary-Treasurer: Mrs. M. Smith, Edmonton

Representatives on the Provincial-Municipal Advisory Committee
J.M. McKay and G.W. Moyer

M. Duquette as the first mayor. It was incorporated as a town December 15th, 1936, when the name was changed to St. Paul. The first town mayor was Henry H. Hivon.

One of the first white settlers was Ed Mailloux; he opened a small blacksmithshop in 1909. In 1935 he expanded and built a foundry and machine shop. In 1945 the foundry was destroyed by fire and was immediately replaced by a larger and more modern plant.

In 1947 a local syndicate drilled an exploratory well less than half a mile from the town; they struck natural gas at 1600 feet. The well had a potential capacity of 4 million cubic feet per day and showed a pressure of 430 lbs. p.s.i. In December of that year gas was available to private consumers. This syndicate supplied gas to town residents from 1948 until 1950 when they sold out to St. Paul Utilities Ltd., who drilled additional wells. Since 1951 Plains Western Gas & Electric Co. Ltd. have the natural gas distribution franchise.

o Industrial Development Branch Survey

ASSESSMENTS AND EXEMPTIONS

(From Page 3)

At this time

Honourable A.J. Hooke mentioned some need for review of the situation generally and promised a study would be conducted and a further report submitted to the 1965 Session.

The effect of the School Foundation Program has brought about many other notable changes assessment and tax wise in the Province of Alberta. Until 1960, for example, power and pipe line properties were only taxable when located in urban municipalities. Since 1961 these types of properties have been fully assessed and on the same basis as other realty no matter where located.

Due to constant pressures from urban dwellers many rural people appear to think the time is soon approaching when farm residences, if not all farm buildings, should cease to enjoy exemption from taxation; such a step would assuredly increase the total equalized assessment of the Province for school and hospital purposes. The increase would be greater still if all assessable buildings were taxed at the 100% value instead of the 60% now employed.

Any or all such changes in approach would not only bring about a shift in the tax load in the same manner as occurs when exemptions are withdrawn, but would enhance the possibility of greater uniformity and greater equity within the whole property tax picture. Further, let it be emphasised that an increase in the assessment level does not necessarily mean that our tax bills are going to be increased. A higher assessment accompanied by a reduced mill rate would still allow the general tax level to be maintained.

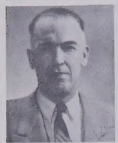
In determining the taxes we pay, our assessment is only one variable factor, of which the mill rate is the other. As long as corresponding adjustments are made in both of these factors, ratepayers have little to fear. We should be wary only when one is effected.

BRANCHES REPORT PROGRESS

(From Page 1)

offices in the Province. Members of the staff also proceeded with the usual calculation of the Municipal Assistance Grants and the preparation of the Department's Annual Report.

The status of the Town of Fort McMurray was changed to that of a New Town at the end of June and now members of this Branch act on the Boards of Administrators of the New Towns of Lodgepole, Swan Hills, Whitecourt and Fort McMurray and attend board meetings in each of these centres at least once a month.



During the year a number of seminars of secretaries and councillors were held at various places throughout the Province at which local administrative problems were discussed in a very broad and informal manner. These meetings not only benefited the attending officials in the knowledge gained but also provided an opportunity for those present to become acquainted with one another and with officials of the department. To those people who took upon themselves the responsibility of arranging these meetings, we wish to extend a sincere expression of appreciation.

The number of applications received under the Winter Works program dropped sharply from nine-hundred thirty in the 1962-63 season to seven-hundred fifty-three for the 1963-64 season, due to the cut back in the dead line for the completion of such projects to April 30th. As at December 15th, 1964, four-hundred-seventy-three applications had been received for the 1964-65 season.

Applications have been received for the incorporation of three villages Cammore, Plamondon and Faust and three summer villages - Norglenwold, Golden Days and Yellowstone. If the applications are approved they will become self governing units as and from January 1st, 1965. During the year the Town of Bowness was amalgamated with the City of Calgary and the Town of Jasper Place was amalgamated with the City of Edmonton.

Two new counties - Minburn and Lac Ste. Anne - have been set up effective January 1st, 1965. This brings the number of counties up to twenty-eight and reduces the number of municipal districts to twenty.

We wish to express our appreciation to all of the secretary-treasurers and councils of the municipalities throughout the Province for their co-operation and assistance in solving administration problems that have arisen during the years.

We wish you every success and smooth sailing on the rough seas of municipal administration during the coming year.

o Bruce Ramsay, Chief Municipal Inspector

ASSESSMENT EQUALIZATION BOARD:

o J. B. Laidlaw o Dr. E. J. Hanson o R. L. Cross

During the year 1964 the Assessment Equalization Board established equalized assessments in respect of all municipalities in the Province.

Commencing in 1964, the equalization base was changed and now represents the level of value depicted in the 1959 Provincial Manual. Also, and for the first time in 1964, equalized assessments were computed by taking into consideration taxable assessments of the previous year rather than those of the current year.

Equalized assessments, as determined by this Board, represent the total assessments and valuations of municipalities adjusted to a degree required to reflect assessments and valuations of that municipality on a common basis with those of all other municipalities in the Province.



In 1963 all municipalities paid into the School Foundation Fund an amount of \$57,513,000 arrived at by application of thirty-two mills on an equalized assessment of \$1,797,300,000.

In 1964 municipalities will have contributed \$64,363,000 through application of twenty-six mills on an equalized assessment of \$2,475,500,000 representing an increased contribution over 1963 of approximately ten per cent or \$6,850,000. This increase in contribution by municipalities was deemed to be a reasonable sharing in view of the estimated \$15,000,000 rise in educational costs for 1964.

It continues to be the objective of the Board to improve the procedures employed in the equalization of assessments in order to ensure the greatest amount of equity throughout all municipalities in the Province.

o R. L. Cross, Secretary-Member

ASSESSMENT BRANCH:

It was expected in the early part of 1964 that there would be a leveling off of the amount of assessment work to be undertaken by the Branch. As it turned out, however, more assessment service requests came from our neighbors beyond Alberta's northern boundaries than we had anticipated, as well as a copious number of requests from Alberta's rural municipalities. Fortunately work in urban municipalities was somewhat lighter in 1964, so we were able to accommodate most of the requests.



At the time of writing our Electric Power and Pipeline division are compiling and listing figures for the computers at the Data Processing centre, and are expected to win the race against time.

Looking ahead, we do not expect any let-up in the volume of real property assessments to be processed over the next twelve months.

On behalf of the Assessment Branch, we wish you and yours a Happy Yuletide Season and a prosperous New Year.

o P. H. Cordery, Assistant Chief Provincial Assessor

ALBERTA ASSESSMENT APPEAL BOARD:

o E. F. Breach o K. A. Luke o K. J. Spread

In the past year the Board has heard appeals in respect of the assessments of approximately 1,700 items of property and has listened to the arguments of upwards of 750 dissatisfied ratepayers. Not all of them have agreed with the Board's judgments, but by and large, Alberta's taxpayers are to be congratulated on the manner in which they accept the burden of paying the cost of educational, health and municipal services.



In 1965 new general assessments will become effective for taxation in at least eight counties and municipal districts. In addition to the usual number of appeals expected from urban municipalities, the City of Calgary has graduated to the level of the 1959 Provincial Assessment Manual and will no doubt provide a normal quota of appeals to the Board.

The Board forecasts a very busy year and extends best wishes for a happy and prosperous 1965.

o E. F. Breach, Chairman

ASSESSMENT COMMISSION:

While the C. B. C. may be able to put 7 days into one hour the year 1964 didn't seem to have enough days in which to cope with the workload of this Branch.

The Inspectors of Assessment made thorough inspections of re-assessments in 33 villages, 16 towns, one city and all the hamlets in seven rural municipalities and two improvement districts. In addition a major survey was carried out in order to establish the market value of land in all summer villages in the Province.



No less than 400 farmers are co-operating with the Assessment Commissioner in a continuous crop yield study based on all the soil zones in the Province. The crop yield information is tabulated and correlated in an effort to establish relative productivity and value of farmlands.

A major revision of the Provincial Assessment Manual is well underway with the material and labor cost survey based on 1963 prices almost completed. During 1965 actual assessment rates will be calculated and the building classifications contained in the Manual will be expanded.

Legislative proposals, interpretations and advisory assistance was provided at a greater rate than in previous years and assistance to the Provincial Municipal Advisory Committee required considerable effort.

The year 1964 saw the first national conference of assessors ever held west of Winnipeg take place in Edmonton. As past chairman of the Canadian Association of Assessing Officers and Conference Chairman it is my impression that assessors have not only reached a high professional standard but their work will continue to occupy a place of growing importance in our national life. Perhaps in the not too distant future we may see some measures of uniform assessment legislation throughout Canada.

o J. B. Laidlaw, Assessment Commissioner

FIELD SERVICE BRANCH:

The work of general assessment is proceeding in the forty-nine

FIELD SERVICE BRANCH (Cont'd)

(From Page 6)

improvement districts of the Province. In 1964 general assessments were carried out in I.D.'s 46, 107, 108, 122; and I.D. 77 was completed with the exception of the hamlet and industrial sections. Two new assessors have been added to the Branch and it is hoped we will acquire two more in 1965.

Farm Purchase Credit Act applications fell off during 1964 because of the expansion of the Farm Credit Corporation activity in the province.

No new Advisory Committees were formed in 1964 but those in existence (now numbering 20) functioned smoothly. Ratepayer interest continues high with the ratepayers meeting being well attended.

One new Agricultural Service Board was formed in I.D. 131, but as yet no field supervisor has been appointed.

The extension to the Recreational Facilities Grant program is well underway with applications being received from a number of communities.

The Municipal Parks Grant Program is not yet completed. Industrial development in the improvement districts continues to show a healthy increase and the work of that section of the Branch has increased considerably. One new staff member will be added in 1965.

Development Control has been established in I.D.'s 11, 22, 102, 107, 123, 124, 146 and 147, with considerable activity taking place in High Level and in the area around the Village of Slave Lake.

The usual Branch business of annual assessments, hamlet services, tax collections and appraisals for various departments of Government continues at approximately the same or slightly higher level than in 1963, and members of the staff continue to serve on Health Unit Boards, Planning Commissions, Service Boards, Interim Development Boards, etc. It is anticipated that 1965 will be equally as busy or busier.

The Field Service Branch extends the Compliments of the Season to one and all.

o A.R. Isbister, Director of Field Service

TAX RECOVERY BRANCH:

It was predicted that 1964 would be a busy year and it was.

The demand for land remained strong and all parcels of good quality were immediately purchased. Acquired lands are now listed twice a year and advertised for sale which has resulted in somewhat better prices being received than by the practice of private sales.

Tax collections were generally good throughout the Province. Collection of crop shares, grazing rental, both arrears and current, have been exceptional. The demand for Rights of Entry and pipeline Right-of-Way remained steady.

To us, 1965 will bring to Albertans another busy and prosperous year and at the moment we cannot think of any reason why one should not be very optimistic.

o K.C. Switzer, Director of Tax Recovery

SPECIAL AREAS BOARD:

o C.W. Edwards o G.C. Grover o A.R. Duff

There was very little spring runoff in 1964, creating a serious water shortage over most of the range land. With the pumping facilities provided, and late rain, the situation was relieved somewhat. However, we will require a good spring runoff in 1965 if the ranchers in the southern part of the area are to utilize all of their grazing land next year.

We accommodated over 7000 cows and yearlings, and 5500 calves in our community pastures last year. Preference was given to breeding stock. Ranchers indicated that they were well satisfied with the condition of their stock on removal from the pastures.

The Special Areas Board distributed over 20 tons of grass seed for the regressing of grazing leases during 1964.

Crop conditions were fair over most of the Area, with yields from 3 to 20 bushels per acre.

We had a good road-construction year, completed 186 miles of heavy construction, and gravelled 405 miles.

We had another active year in Farm Purchase applications. The trend throughout the Special Areas would appear to be toward larger



and more economic units.

The Special Areas Agricultural Service Board has been appointed the nucleus for an ARDA Committee, and it is anticipated that worthwhile schemes will be proposed for the future betterment of the Areas.

Farmers in the Area are expressing interest in a seed cleaning plant, and the Service Board have recently called a meeting to ascertain whether there is sufficient interest to warrant the establishment of a plant at Oyen.

o C.W. Edwards, Chairman

PERSONNEL OFFICE:

The past year has proven to be a very busy one for the Department's Personnel Office.



In 1964, the personnel office processed 33 appointments, 28 terminations, 2 retirements, 18 transfers to and from the Department and 14 promotions within the Department, the total staff at this date being 340 employees.

In 1964 we noted many changes in personnel regulations and many employees received adjustments in salary due to a regrading in April. All this is indicative of an upswing in personnel activities and we can look forward to a busy and better year in 1965.

o W.H. Kinsman, Personnel Officer

PLANNING BRANCH:

Following the coming into force of the new Planning Act late in 1963, 1964 saw its first full year of use. A very small amendment was made in 1964, but by and large the Act has proved very successful in its operation.

During the year just ended, the work of the Provincial Planning Board again increased, notwithstanding that development appeals now rest finally with the municipalities rather than with the Board. A number of the Board meetings held during the year were in regional centres of the Province. During its work in these centres and in Edmonton, the Board dealt with 135 Subdivision appeals.

The year saw a few changes of faces amongst the Board members, and also saw Deputy Minister A.W. Morrison become Chairman upon the resignation of J.H. Holmoway.

The Board this year recommended payment of 50% of approved operating budgets of Alberta's Regional Planning Commissions, an amount in excess of \$213,000. Grants towards special projects and to some municipalities not members of Regional Planning Commissions were recommended for payment upon completion of such projects.

The year saw a continuation in the growth rate of the Province and its contingent problems in planning and development. This growth was exemplified in the Town of Fort McMurray, which because of impending construction of an oil sand plant requested New Town status. The request was studied by the Board and a favorable recommendation given to the Cabinet, who concurred and granted New Town status. Also during the year, continuing planning and development advice was given to municipalities requesting same with increasing attention being given to the improvement districts thereby matching the continued growth taking place within them.

Just over 1,000 decisions upon subdivision applications were rendered for municipalities not members of Regional Planning Commissions, and another 1,950 decisions upon subdivision applications were made by the Regional Planning Commissions.

As in previous years the Board gave consideration to many new zoning and development control by-laws, as well as amendments thereto and made decisions on general planning matters.

Noel Dant, Director of Town and Rural Planning

SEARCH PARTY

"It isn't lost, it's in the files,"
She says, and very sweetly smiles
And keeps on looking, drawer by drawer,
Both left and right and higher, lower.

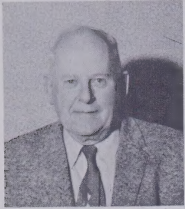
"It's in files, it isn't lost,"
She says, with papers madly tossed,
And shrewdly plays her little game,
For "Lost" and "Filed" are much the same.

Anyone who remains calm in the midst of all this confusion simply does not understand the situation.

o Sign in Del McQueen's Office

LONG IN THE SERVICE

It was last June that the Olds Council honored James Edward McLeod with a civic reception upon completion of thirty years of service as Secretary-Treasurer of the town. On that occasion he was presented with a framed scroll bearing the names of all mayors and councillors with whom he had worked during his thirty years, many of whom were in attendance.



Mr. McLeod already had 9 years of municipal service in the municipal field when he came to Olds in 1934, for during the years 1925 to 1934 he was Secretary-Treasurer of both the M. D. of Sounding Creek and of the then Town of Youngstown.

Now completing his fortieth year Mr. McLeod is still going strong. No wonder the people who are the Town of Olds are proud of him and his record.

J.E. McLEOD "Mac" as he is known to his many friends arrived in Calgary in June of 1912 from Wabasha, Minnesota, where he had been born July 25, 1895. Proceeding to Carbon where his uncle operated a general store, he was engaged as a clerk for a few months and then joined the staff of the Union Bank. After moves to Swallow and Consort, he was transferred to Chinook in 1915 when he left to serve with the United States Navy.

At the end of the First World War, Mr. McLeod returned to Chinook and took up where he left off with the bank and in the spring of 1922 was transferred to Blairmore where he was stationed until 1925. Transferred again to Strathmore, he was there six months when the Union Bank was amalgamated with the Royal, which put him in line for the position of manager in one of the Peace River branches.

It was at this time, however, that Mr. McLeod decided he wanted a change and so he applied for and was appointed Secretary-Treasurer of Sounding Creek M.D.

Mr. McLeod lost his wife a year ago, but his son Hartley and his daughter Mary Ann (Mrs. Ken Sheets) both live in Calgary. Mac is Past Master of Acadia Lodge #82, A.F. & A.M., Past Master and Life Member of Hiram Chapter #19, R.A.M., as well as Life Member, Royal Caledonian Curling Club of Scotland.

Of his long time friend, Dave Dishan of Olds writes: "Mac in his younger days was very keen on sports of all kinds. He was a better than average baseball pitcher and was coach of the Youngstown hockey team at one time. He commenced curling in 1916 and through the years made quite a name for himself in the game."

Mr. McLeod is still interested in these sports as well as football, fishing and gardening. He is a member of the United Church.

Following his civic reception last June, the Olds Gazette ran an editorial praising Mr. McLeod in these words:

RICHLY DESERVED HONOR

As far as we know, the first civic function to honor single individual was reserved until this week. Then on Monday, the Town of Olds honored its most devoted public servant at a luncheon. The words of praise heaped on the shoulders of J.E. McLeod, who for thirty years has been secretary-treasurer of the Town of Olds were richly deserved. It is fitting, too, that these words of praise should be uttered while he continues to serve in the same capacity.

In a singularly demanding position, "Mac" has been the real diplomat. He has been the go-between for the ratepayers and the council. He has been the public relations officer with outside contacts, he has kept the mayors and a host of councillors on the straight and narrow of The Town and Village Act, he has trained office help and assisted them through difficult times. He has been a devoted husband and a good father. He has been a good sport - supporting and competing with zest and enthusiasm but always with good will. Like his many friends here and all over Alberta, we hope he will be around many more years to see his adopted home town and Province grow and prosper.

TWO NEW COUNTIES FORMED

Two new Alberta counties, the County of Minburn No. 27 and the County of Lac Ste. Anne No. 28, became operative on January 1, 1965. The single-government units were formed by the amalgamation of the former municipal districts (Minburn No. 27 and Lac Ste. Anne No. 93) with the Vegreville School Division No. 19 and the Lac Ste. Anne School Division No. 11 respectively. The number of municipal districts remaining was reduced to 20 by the new formations.

SECRETARY'S CALENDAR



FOR FEBRUARY

Municipal District Act

5th - Within 5 days after the end of each month the secretary-treasurer shall prepare a statement of monies received and their disposition, submit to council at next meeting and enter a copy in the minutes. Sec. 61(1)(v).

Feb. 1 - Auditor shall prepare a Financial Statement on or before this date. Sec. 68(1).

Feb. 20 - On or before this date the secretary-treasurer shall mail a copy of the Auditor's Statement to every person whose name appears on the assessment roll. Sec. 68(6).

Feb. 20 - On each Auditor's Statement the secretary-treasurer shall have printed a notice in Form 1 in Schedule A regarding the Annual Meeting. Sec. 67(7) and 96(6).

Feb. 28 - Auditor shall send notice of arrears to ratepayers. Sec. 67(f).

Note: Council shall appoint an assessor at its first meeting after formation or as soon as practicable and council shall appoint an auditor each year at its first meeting or within two months thereafter. Sec. 64(1) and 66(1).

March 6 - Annual meeting to be held. Sec. 96(6).

Town and Village Act

15th - Secretary-treasurer shall prepare a statement of monies received and their disposition, submit to council at next meeting and enter a copy in the minutes. Sec. 67(f).

Feb. 1 - Auditor shall prepare a Financial Statement on or before this date. Sec. 76(1).

Feb. 15 - Secretary-treasurer shall publish synopsis of Auditor's report. Sec. 76(5).

Feb. 22 - Ratepayers Annual meeting to be held on this day. Sec. 125(1). Submission of reports. Sec. 126.

Feb. 28 - Auditor to send notice of arrears to ratepayers. Sec. 74(5).

Note: Appointments of assessor and auditor to be made not later than the 1st of April in each year. Sec. 71 and 73.

Assessment Act, 1960

Feb. 1 - All assessment appeals to be received within 30 days of the mailing of assessment slips. Sec. 37.

Court of Revision to be appointed if necessary and date fixed for sittings. Sec. 32 and 35.

Completion of duties of the Court of Revision within 90 days after January 1st. Sec. 43.

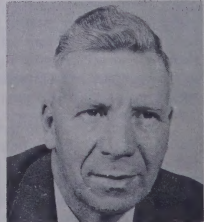
Certify assessment roll complete upon closing of sittings of court of revision or upon expiry of time for complaining. Sec. 46. o E.J.B.

... FIELD SERVICE BRANCH ASSESSOR

WILMOT DIES IN ACCIDENT

J.E. (Jack) Wilmot, an assessor with the Field Service Branch for eleven years, was killed on January 4 in a highway crash near Smith, Alberta, 125 miles north of Edmonton. RCMP officers said Mr. Wilmot was the driver of a car which collided with a lumber truck on Highway 2 while returning to Peace River from his home in Camrose. No others were reported injured in the accident.


Jasper Edgar Wilmot was an assessor in the Peace River District since 1962. Born February 14, 1911, in Buckinghamshire, England, he was brought to Canada at the age of four months. He attended school at Maymont, Saskatchewan, and during the war served with the Royal Canadian Navy.



J.E. WILMOT

Mr. Wilmot came to Alberta in 1945 and took up farming near Wainwright, later moving to Camrose. In 1953 he worked as an assessor with the Municipal District of Morinville (now a part of the County of Sturgeon No. 15) joining the Department the following year. Since then he has assessed at Hines Creek, Edson and the Coal Branch, Hinton, the Peace River country, the Crownest Pass, the towns of Athabasca and Lac La Biche, and also the City of Camrose.

Mr. Wilmot is survived by his wife, the former Doreen Patrick, and one daughter still in school.



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